

# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16*

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## THE WAY WHICH THEY CALL HERESY

Those who opposed the WAY (as mentioned in John 14:6, Acts 16:17) that Paul advocated, brought many unfounded and false accusations against him. (See Acts 24:5-13). Although the apostle Paul was persecuted and even imprisoned for the truth, (see 2 Cor. 11:23-28), he spake boldly his convictions. (See 2 Cor. 3:12; Eph. 6:18-20; 1 Thess. 2:1-4). Paul stated in Acts 24:13-14 that he wasn't guilty of those things whereof they accused him but he said: "**But this I confess unto thee, that after THE WAY WHICH THEY CALL HERESY, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets.**" Paul was not ashamed to let people know that he worshipped God after THE WAY WHICH THEY CALLED HERESY.

Today many people speak evil against the church of Jesus Christ and bring many false accusations against it. For example, many will say, "the church of Christ doesn't believe the Old Testament." Friends, that isn't so! We do believe the Old Testament as well as the New Testament! We do not believe that the Old Testament as such is binding upon us today. The old law was nailed to the cross. (Col. 2:14-17). We are thus dead to it and delivered from it. (Rom. 7:1-7). We are under the New Testament of Christ. (See 1 Cor. 9:21, Heb. 9:16-17; James 1:25). The things written aforetime serve as

examples and are written for our admonition, (1 Cor. 10:11), but whosoever are justified by the law "**are fallen from grace.**" (Gal. 5:6).

Often we hear this statement: "the church of Christ believes in water salvation." No, we do NOT believe in water salvation! We believe in salvation by the blood of Christ when a penitent believer is baptized "**for the remission of sins.**" (Acts 2:38). Christ shed his blood in his death. (John 19:34). But we are "**baptized into his death.**" (Rom. 6:3-4). Therefore, we must be baptized to get to the blood of Christ! It was Jesus Christ who said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. . ."

Some people speak evil of the WAY by saying, "those people do not believe that faith and repentance are necessary to salvation." Friends, the truth is this: We do believe that both faith and repentance are essential to salvation, (Heb. 11:6; Acts 2:38; 17:30), but we do not believe that sinners are saved **by faith only** like false teachers claim. Read James 2:14-16. Neither do we believe that repentance alone saves. It was Jesus who said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Sinners must have sufficient faith to move with fear in obedience to the Lord's will!

Another unfounded and false accusation which is often brought against the church of

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## Editorial . . .

### WALKING BY FEELINGS

Since one can only please God when he walks by faith, there is no divine authority for one to walk by his feelings. Many who walk by their feelings may not be fully aware of the fact that they are so doing because they have been deceived. Let us consider some ways which many walk when they are governed by their feelings. When governed by their feelings, SOME WALK:

1. BY OPINION. The opinion by which some walk may be their opinion or the opinion of someone else. When one is governed by opinion instead of the written word of God, he is walking by feelings. There can be no genuine faith where there is no written testimony of God because "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Rom. 10:17). While in sin and persecuting Christians Paul sincerely thought that he "ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth." He did things that were contrary to the name of Jesus. He thought he was right, but he was wrong! (See Acts 9:1-2; 26:9-11; 23:1). Today many people think they are saved by faith only, but they are wrong! James 2:24 says: "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." Jesus

said: ". . . Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15-16). Many think that "one church is just as good as another", but they are wrong! (See and consider very carefully and honestly Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47; Ephesians 4:1-6 and Matthew 15:13).

2. BY PHYSICAL SENSATIONS AND EMOTIONS. All people have physical sensations and emotions. When one is governed in religious matters by the way he feels physically or emotionally instead of by "a thus saith the Lord" as written in "the perfect law of liberty", (James 1:25; 2:12), he is walking by feelings. When a person contends that his physical or emotional feelings prove his salvation, he evidences either a lack of regard for or ignorance of God's plan of salvation as revealed in the New Testament. In order to be washed in the blood of Christ and thus be saved by the grace of God, it is absolutely necessary for a person to believe that God is and that Jesus is the Son of God, (see Heb. 11:6; John 20:30-31; Acts 16:31), repent of sins, (Acts 17:30-31; Acts 2:38), confess faith in Christ, (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized into Christ, (Gal. 3:26-27; Mark 16:16). You can know that you are saved only by what is written. John said: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (1 Jno. 5:13). John also said: "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments." (Jno. 2:3).

3. BY PRIDE. When one refuses to "confess Christ" and "obey the gospel" because he loves "the praise of men more than the praise of God", pride prompts him to walk by feelings rather than by faith. (Consider John 12:42-43; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Romans 1:16). If a person teaches contrary to "the doctrine which is according to godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing. . ." (See 1 Tim. 6:3-4). Humility walks by faith, but pride walks by feelings.

4. BY PREJUDICE. When a person forms an opinion against God's truth before he candidly considers all the evidence, he is being governed by prejudice. Many people have formed strong opinions against the Lord's church before and without considering all the facts as revealed in the

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**THE WAY WHICH THEY CALL HERESY**  
God is that we do not believe in praying. Of course, we do believe in prayer as taught in God's Word. We know that God hears the prayers of his children who pray according to his will. (1 John 5:14; 1 Pet. 3:12). But do children of the Devil have the right to expect God to answer their petitions? (See Prov. 28:9; John 9:31; John 8:44).

Some people claim that the church of Christ doesn't like music. The truth is that we do like music but we do not believe in using mechanical instruments of music in worship since God hasn't told us to use such. God is a Spirit. We **"must worship him in spirit and in truth."** (John 4:24). We can sing **"in truth"** because it is taught in God's Word. (Eph. 5:19). But we can not play mechanical instruments of music in worship and it be **"in truth"** because it is NOT taught in God's Word. We must not add to the Word of God. Since there is no authority in the New Testament for us to use mechanical instruments of music in worship, we do not use such. We must not go beyond **"that which is written."**

There are still others who speak evil of the WAY be saying, "those people do not believe in evangelism and in caring for the needy and in church cooperation." Of course, this is still another unfounded and false accusation. We do believe in evangelism, caring for the needy and church cooperation, but we believe the New Testament is the standard we must follow. We believe that the **"church"** should relieve those for whom it is responsible. (1 Tim. 5:16). We must not add to the Word of God. Since there is no authority in the New Testament for churches to build and maintain human organizations which in turn do these works, we do not defend, encourage, nor believe such to be right! Churches may cooperate as outlined in the New Testament. (See 1 Cor. 16:1-3; 2 Cor. 11:8; Phil. 4:14-16). There is no authority for the "sponsoring church" type arrangement except human wisdom! Therefore, we do not defend, encourage, nor believe such to be right! We must not go beyond **"that which is written."**

We are not guilty of many things people accuse us of, but this one thing we confess to the whole world, **"THAT AFTER THE WHICH THEY CALL HERESY, SO WORSHIP I (WE) THE GOD OF MY (OUR)**

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## **CONDITIONAL PROMISES OF GOD (No. 2)**

In the February issue of THE INSTRUCTOR we had an article of **"Conditional Promises of God"** in which we showed from the Scriptures the following five conditional promises that God has made. They are as follows:

1. **REST** if one will **"come...take...and learn..."** (See Matt. 11:28-30).

2. **CHRIST WILL NOT CAST OUT** if one will **"come"** to Christ. (See John 6:37).

3. **SALVATION FROM PAST (ALIEN) SINS** if one will **"believe", repent and be baptized...** for the remission of sins." (See Mark 16:16 & Acts 2:38).

4. **ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED** if one will **"seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."** (Matt. 6:33).

5. **FORGIVENESS OF SINS TO ERRING CHILDREN OF GOD** if they will **repent, confess their sins, and pray to God.** (See James 5:19-20; 5:16; Acts 8:22 & 1 John 1:9).

Let us now consider some more conditional promises.

6. **FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER AND HIS SON JESUS CHRIST.** 1 John 1:1-7 shows that the promise of fellowship with God is conditional. We must **"walk in the light as He is in the light"** in order to have fellowship with God and be cleansed as His children with the blood of Christ. To walk according to God's Word is to walk in the light. If you want fellowship with God, you must meet the condition.

7. **ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD.** The promise is stated by the apostle Paul in Rom. 8:28. He said: "And we know that **all things work together for good** to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Many people believe this promise is to all people **unconditionally.** But such is not the case. Please note the fact that it is **"to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."** This promise is limited to those who are called by the gospel, (see 2 Thess. 2:14; Rom. 1:16; 2:16; Mark 16:15-16), and **"to them that love God."** If one loves God, he will keep His commandments. (See 1 John 5:3; 2:3-5; John 14:15; 15:14).

8. **A CROWN OF LIFE.** In Rev. 2:10 Jesus said: "...be thou faithful unto death, and I

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# ARE YOU STANDING FAST?

Many who claim to be Christians are weak and unstable. Double-mindedness is a characteristic of some. Some seem not to know where they stand in relation to truth and error, good and evil and the church and the world. It is imperative that Christians know **whom** they have believed and be willing to **stand fast in the Lord**. The enemy of Christians is constantly trying to weaken and discourage them. He delights in the fickleness of Christians. However the Devil can be resisted and put to flight by those who are determined to firmly stand in and live by the faith.

Let us consider very carefully the following passages of Scripture written by the apostle Paul.

1. **"Therefore, brethren, STAND FAST, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."** (2 Thess. 2:15).

2. **"STAND FAST therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, . . ."** (Gal. 5:1).

3. **"Watch ye, STAND FAST IN THE FAITH, quit ye like men, be strong."** (1 Cor. 16:13).

4. **" . . . SO STAND FAST IN THE LORD, my dearly beloved."** (Phil. 4:1).

5. **"For now we live, if ye STAND FAST IN THE LORD."** (1 Thess. 3:8).

God wants us to serve him sincerely and to stand fast in Him! (CRS)

## THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

We are still waiting for some word from either Albert Hill or the Hobbs St. elders. Have they forsaken principles?

## HEAR THE GOSPEL

You are invited to hear the Gospel of CHRIST in a series of meetings at the East Albertville Church April 22-27, 1979. Services will begin at 7:00 o'clock each evening except on Sunday.

Tommy Poarch will be doing the preaching plan to be with us and please tell others.

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## CONDITIONAL PROMISES OF GOD (No. 2)

**will give thee a crown of life."** This promise should be desired by all. This promise is limited to God's children who are **"faithful unto death."** It is promised to no one else. Others have no right to expect to receive it.

YOU can confidently expect to receive every conditional promise God has made IF YOU MEET THE CONDITIONS! (CRS)

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## WALKING BY FEELINGS

New Testament. Those guided by prejudice are walking by feelings.

If you would enter the kingdom, **you must walk by faith**. Your faith must prompt you to **"do the will of"** God! (CRS)

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THE WAY WHICH THEY CALL HERESY FATHERS, BELIEVING ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAW AND IN THE PROPHETS." (CRS)

## Sentence Sermons

Man has the opportunity but not the right to do wrong.

Past experience should be a guide post, not a hitching post.

Praise makes good men better and bad men worse.

Many people who claim to be neutral soon show which side they are on.

It is easy to tell one lie; it is hard to tell but one.

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